

**Department of Transportation  
Project No. 120-86  
Proposed Roundabout – Intersection of Routes 82 and 85  
Town of Salem**

**Public Informational Meeting  
June 17, 2009 7:00 p.m.  
Gardner Lake Fire House  
Route 354, Salem**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Connecticut Department of Transportation:

James Norman, P.E., Acting Engineering Administrator  
Timothy Wilson, P.E., Principal Engineer  
William Britnell, P.E., Project Manager  
Peter Talarico, P.E., Project Engineer  
Jaymes Tanski, Design Engineer  
Michael Marzi, Office of Rights of Way  
Brien Smith, Office of Traffic Engineering

Town of Salem:

Mr. Robert T. Ross, First Selectman

**Presentation:** Following a 30 minute informal open house session, Mr. Ross opened the meeting with a brief history of the project and then introduced Mr. Britnell who gave a PowerPoint presentation lasting approximately 50 minutes long. Mr. Marzi then discussed the right of way process.

The presentation described the history of the project along with the purpose and need and described roundabouts and their benefits in terms of safety and operations.

The presentation covered the following items:

- ⇒ Accident patterns at the existing intersection and a driveway to a gas station just south of the intersection (average of 2 accidents per month including one fatal accident)
- ⇒ Description of a roundabout and the differences between a roundabout and a traffic circle, examples of other roundabouts, videos of roundabouts in operation
- ⇒ Improved accident rates at roundabouts compared to signalized intersections and the reasons for the improvements in safety, including advantages for younger and older drivers
- ⇒ Traffic simulation showing 2020 pm peak hour projected traffic volumes flowing through roundabout with little delay

**Public Comments and Questions:** Approximately 100 residents and public officials attended, of which approximately 25-30 took the opportunity to ask questions or make comments, which are summarized below:

- The safety issues regarding access into Henny Penny was the most commonly mentioned concern. Suggestions included reducing the two lanes on Route 85 to one lane, closing the driveway and buying the station. Mr. Ross noted that he has had conversations with the owner of the station and the Salem Prime Cuts parcel about sharing access and the owners seemed cooperative. This issue will be discussed during the design process.
- During busy periods, especially summer weekends, traffic flow on Route 85 northbound towards Route 11 is so heavy that traffic on Route 82 westbound and Route 85 southbound may have difficulty entering the roundabout. Others felt that Route 82 eastbound traffic would not yield to traffic in the roundabout.
- Concerns were expressed regarding pedestrian safety. Others stated that the roundabouts and proposed sidewalks would be an improvement in pedestrian safety. Mr. Ross noted that he wanted to make the area pedestrian friendly.
- Comments were made both in general support and opposition to the proposal.

**Adjournment:** The question and answer session was concluded at approximately 9:00 p.m. The Department representatives then continued to speak with residents informally until approximately 10:00 p.m.

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